

Teaching Biblical Doctrines to Children

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Host: David Wheaton 00:08

Teaching Biblical Doctrines to Children. That is a topic we'll discuss today, right here on The Christian Worldview radio program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

I'm David Wheaton, the host, we are able to reach believers and non believers with that mission through the radio station, website or podcast platform on which you are listening today because of the support of listeners like you. So thank you. You can connect with us by visiting our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, calling toll-free 1-888-646-2233, or writing to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota, 55331. You can also follow our social media pages on Facebook or X.

We at The Christian Worldview are currently on a road trip to northern Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter, both of which are owned and operated by Answers in Genesis, the ministry founded and led by Ken Ham, which boldly proclaims the authority of God's Word and the gospel. We have been conducting interviews with Ken and several others during the visit that we are going to air next week on the program. In fact, later in today's program, we are going to air a portion of one interview we did with Brian Osborne, an author and popular speaker for Answers in Genesis, that we did on site at the Ark Encounter following his presentation on the global flood, which is detailed in Genesis 6-9

Before we get to that, we are going to air an interview that some of our longer time listeners may remember from back in 2016 with Michael Joens, an animator and creator of Theo Presents, which is a 15 episode series dedicated to teaching children God's Word and the Gospel. Joens is a highly credentialed animator, having worked for studios such as Hanna-Barbera, Filmation, Warner Brothers, and Marvel productions. It was while he was at Marvel Productions that he began producing and directing television series and specials, such as Blondie and Dagwood for CBS, the animated fragile rock series for NBC, and the *My Little Pony* feature film in the late 1980s.

Michael left Marvel to start his own Animation Company, where he began doing commercial work, as well as producing and directing segments for Adventures In Odyssey, of Focus on the Family. However, all of that was preparation for Michael's longtime dream of producing the Theo Present series. Here's how we previewed the interview with him back in 2016.

Host David Wheaton

There's nothing more important than trying to pass on the faith in teaching doctrines to children. That was something that's so emphasized in Scripture. In Deuteronomy 6, it says "these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your sons, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." That's Deuteronomy 6.

So, what are "these words" that passage talks about that are to be on our hearts and then also taught diligently to our children along with other biblical doctrines? Truths about God and how we are to live and worship Him now. The truths of salvation, forgiveness, obedience, loving one's neighbor, and many of the other doctrines in Scripture should be taught to children at the earliest ages. The ungodly world around us is relentlessly trying to capture hearts and minds. Especially the young, with lies such as, "hey, there are many paths to God, not just one. Live for today and live for yourself; or you need to find your own truth in life."

These are the kind of lies that are constantly coming at our children from the youngest of ages. The seduction is very strong, and yet, in the face of it, Christian parents and grandparents are called to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. But how, how can we teach biblical truths or doctrines to children in a culture that pushes back so vehemently?

Well, one excellent way we found is through an animated cartoon series called *Theo Presents*, and our guest this weekend on The Christian worldview is Michael Joens. It's spelled J-o-e-n-s, but it's pronounced "Jens". He is the creator and director of Theo, a 15-episode animated cartoon series, that we could not recommend more highly, and we're going to be offering to you as listeners today to The Christian worldview. The production value and the teaching of biblical doctrines in Theo is of the highest quality. And we encourage you to to preview and order this year as we have it available on TheChristianWorldview.org.

We're going to be having Michael Joens on the program, the creator and director of it, but I wanted to give you a little taste of what it's like. It has, obviously, great animation value and production value, but the doctrinal teaching within these is not vague. It's not sort of like, yeah, we need to love each other. God is love, and let's go on and go outside and play. The doctrinal teaching in these is suitable for any Christian adult. That's how good it is. I think you're going to see that as we play some sound bites from this particular cartoon series.

Now, just to give you a little framework of how the the episodes typically lay out. Again, there's 15 episodes. They open with two mice, Luther and Belfry, having some squabble or having some problem. The setting is in England, and they sort of act out of the flesh in regard to some issue. Then

it transitions to Theo, who is a human, an older gentleman. He looks at them and then introduces the issue that's going to be discussed in the episode. And then he goes on to saying what the issue is not, but also what the issue is. Then he goes into what they call a "Shoebox Bible Theater" where it's a story from scripture that talks about one of the issues, whether it's saving faith, loving obedience, forgiveness, the armor of God, redemption, or new birth. These are the topics of these cartoons.

Then there's always concluding comments at the end where Luther and Belfry, the two mice, have learned the lesson from the episode. I'll just give you a short sound bite. This episode is where Luther and Belfry, the two mice, one of them Belfry, has taken and eaten the cheese of Luther, and Luther is really upset about it. It's an issue of forgiveness. So here's the first sound bite from Theo presents.

Audio Sound Bite 07:22

Theo: Come on now. What's going on here?

Luther: "Look, Belfry ate my wedge of cheese."

Belfry: "And I said I was sorry."

Theo: Now you two forgive each other and be friends. Animals of course, have no idea what it means to forgive one another. I wonder sometimes if we humans do. Did you know that the word forgive means to set something free? To forgive has a couple more meanings as well. It means to completely cancel a debt or sin, forgiveness also means to remove the punishment that someone actually deserves. Oh, one more thing. Jesus said, we are to forgive our brother seventy times seven, that means without limits.

Host: David Wheaton 08:27

Okay, so we'll get into the interview with Mike next, but you can see, just from that the explanations of what forgiveness is in this particular episode, and they're all like this. They're very specific and biblical. Not just a surface level gloss over, but something that's very, very specific. I love the way in the episodes, if you get them, you're going to see, that Theo is constantly saying "the Bible says", "Did you know the Bible says?", he keeps on going back to the authority of Scripture.

When children watch this, and our three year old son watches it. Now he can't comprehend a lot of the doctrinal content yet, but he's just transfixed by the animation and the storylines and so forth. He loves it.

Let's get to the interview with Michael Joens, the producer of Theo, and then we'll tell you how you can get these excellent episodes of Theo. Mike, it's great to have you on The Christian Worldview

for the first time, and I often ask first time guests, tell us about your background and how you became a follower of Christ and how you became an animator.

Guest: Michael Joens 09:29

Well first of all, David, thank you very much for having me on your show. I appreciate it very much. To answer your question, I was raised in a Catholic home. When I was 16, I left home, and with that, I left whatever faith I had at that time. I ended up joining the Marine Corps when I was 19 years old, back in 1970 and it was in the Marine Corps that I came to know the Lord as my Savior. And that took place in February 11, 1972 in Naples, Italy. A couple of the Marines in the barracks where I was serving were Christians, and led me to Christ.

Host: David Wheaton 10:08

Then how did you become involved in doing cartoons? That seems like an unusual life calling.

Guest: Michael Joens 10:17

I was given the talent of being able to draw cartoons from a very early age. I failed to mention earlier, when I was growing up, my dad was in the Marine Corps, so we traveled quite a bit, quite extensively. Every year was a new school. I was always on the outside, looking in, as it were, and trying to figure out who in the world and where I was. In the midst of all these new people, cartooning became my best friend. I found a lot of solace in it.

I learned to draw better and better as I got older, of course, and learned to tell stories through my cartooning. Because of my cartooning, I gained a lot of friends. I became the go to guy when a cartoon was needed. So that is where my cartooning skills developed. I never had any formal training as far as that goes. I was always a cartoonist. In fact, my Marine Corps, MOS we called, the Military Occupational Specialty, was combat illustrator. That was my job in the Marine Corps was to be an artist, and I didn't do that a whole lot in the Marines. I ended up being a guard over Naples, Italy, guarding the NATO base there. And again, that's where God wanted me, obviously, for me to come to know His Son

Host: David Wheaton 11:35

Mike Joens joins us today on The Christian Worldview, the creator and director of Theo, an excellent Biblically sound cartoon. Let's talk about the genesis of Theo, Mike. Where did it start? And what do you see the purpose of it?

Guest: Michael Joens 11:52

When I came to Christ in 1972, the expression, I was "called into the ministry", and by that, I mean I was called into what I felt was a full time lifestyle that God was going to use me in some way to share

the gospel. In my mind, at that time, it was, of course, a pulpit ministry. I thought maybe I should become a chaplain, to go back into the military after I got out, as a chaplain to minister to the men. But you know what? When I graduated from Bible College in 1977 I felt like that's not what God wanted me to do.

I got married while I was in Bible college to Kathleen, and my wife and I felt like God had another plan. We didn't know what it was, but we ended up coming down to Los Angeles, where her parents lived. I tried to get a job in all of the different Christian organizations: World Vision, David C Cook, those kinds of places, and the doors closed. The door that opened for me, in a really spectacular way, was cartoon animation in the secular industry. All of a sudden, I found myself an Assistant Animator working for Filmation Studios in 1977. It was really like a bolt from on high. I sensed how God could use cartoons to teach the gospel to kids around the world.

Not just in the US, but kids around the world love cartoons. It truly is a universal language. And I thought, Wow, what a great vehicle that would be, a great platform or pulpit from which I could speak the gospel and teach children around the world what the Bible had to say about their Lord and Savior. In 1978 I came up with the concept of Theo. It took 30 years for God to finally give us the financing for us to actually produce it. But that's when the seed of Theo was sown, 1978

Host: David Wheaton 13:59

Well, there are 15 episodes of Theo, and we're speaking with the the creator and director of it today, Mike Joens, and I want to list off what the episodes are about: Saving Faith, Loving Obedience, Forgiveness, Armor of God, Redemption, New Birth, Justification, Adoption, A Day in Prayer, Abiding in Christ, Light Unto My Path, What is the Church, Fruit of the Spirit, Salvation, and Love Thy Neighbor.

This is not a normal cartoon series, and I've seen them all. They're all about 10 to 12 minutes long, and they do an excellent job with not just the animation and the entertainment value of them, but they teach really sound biblical doctrines. I'd like to play, Mike, a two minute sound bite with some excerpts of the episode on salvation, just to give listeners a chance to understand what kinds of teaching, doctrinal teaching there is in Theo. Here's just two minutes from the episode on salvation:

Audio Sound Bite: Salvation 15:13

Theo: Salvation is God's act of grace in saving people from bondage to sin in this life, as well as eternal condemnation when we die. Salvation is based on what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross, not something that can be earned. How can we be saved? Let's take a look at the Romans Road in our Shoe Box Bible theater.

Jesus taught that there are two ways of all roads in life, only two. One road is broad and easy to follow. It is the well traveled road of the world. The other road is the one less traveled. To enter it, one must go through a narrow gate. Jesus is that gate. Jesus said that He is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE, and that there is no other way to heaven but through him alone. It is a road that brings trials and testing, a road of self denial. But it is also a road that brings true blessing, joy and peace. Jesus calls this road the way of abundant life. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to pay the price for every person's sins. Because of his sacrifice, we have a clear choice. We may turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus by faith in order to receive eternal life, or because of unbelief, we may reject Christ and pay for our own sins in eternal hell.

Host: David Wheaton 17:12

So Mike, in hearing the amount of doctrinal content that you convey in this episode and all the episodes, why is it important to teach biblical doctrines to children, and at what age should this start?

Guest: Michael Joens 17:26

The reason we should do it is because God commands it. I mean one of my favorite passages, and actually, I wrote a blog about it on our website, is from Deuteronomy, chapter 6:4-7, if I can read it real quick: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is one. The Shema is called. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might. And these words which I'm commanding you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and and your daughters, and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up."

This is a command of the Lord. We are to teach them diligently, the word in the original language for *diligent* has to do with a piercing, like an engraving. It's like we're engraving the Word of God unto our children's hearts, and that's the command of the Lord. We're to do it throughout the day, when we get up and when we go to bed, as we're walking by the way. It's a constant lifestyle of teaching our children the doctrines of the Christian faith. To not do that basically, is to disobey the Lord. Furthermore, let me add this. Children are not stupid! We have dumbed down our children over the past, I don't know how many years, to where we don't believe that they can actually assimilate the kind of knowledge that they can assimilate. If you were to look back to the New England Primer, for example, which was the textbook for children at the latter part of the 19th century, early 20th century, it's amazing what children were learning. I doubt that many college kids today would have that kind of understanding of things biblical and otherwise.

Host: David Wheaton 19:19

These episodes are fun. They're not all teaching for 10 or 12 minutes, but you can see how strong the teaching is in these episodes. I was thinking, boy, I wish most evangelical churches would teach like that. I mean, that is stronger teaching content than you'll get, I believe in most evangelical churches today. That's why I said these are not only great for your kids, these are just great for adults to watch as well.

He goes into that, and we're going to talk about that later, how older cartoons were made for children, but they're also made for adults as well. He definitely accomplished that in these episodes of Theo. I want to play the trailer for Theo because I think this describes very well what these episodes are all about

Theo Trailer: 24:41

In our media saturated world, it's not always easy to help children understand the basic truths of the Christian faith. Meet Theo, a teacher of God's Word and namesake of the new animated series from Whitestone Media.

Theo: Oh, there you are. Do come in. I have some. Good news for you.

Theo lives in a cozy corner of a quaint English village, along with his two mouse friends, Belfry and Luther, a perky bluebird, and a cast of colorful characters. In each episode, Theo carefully explores a doctrinal theme, such as salvation, obedience, sin.

Theo: Did you know that because of our sin, we owe a debt to God that we can never repay? However, God is gracious. God's love and forgiveness.

Belfry: So will you forgive me Luther?

Luther: Alright, sure. What are mates for?

The beautifully animated episodes are filled with illustrations and Bible stories that are fun for viewers of all ages, while encouraging children to learn more about the Christian faith. Theo is a tool to help moms and dads, Sunday school teachers, homeschoolers, and missionaries teach God's word. Why not make an impact for eternity? Begin the journey with Theo today and help present the gospel to audiences of all ages around the world.

Theo: When you ask Jesus to be LORD and Savior of your life, He will not only give you eternal life, but an abundant life of joy and goodness here on Earth. Won't you receive Him today?

Host: David Wheaton 26:41

I tell you, when we see a resource like this, we buy it ourselves, for you, the listeners, and that's why we promote it and then make it available to you. Just watching that almost brings tears to your eyes. How very good this is for children, the most impressionable among us. Mike, what can they do to help their children understand what's being taught and then, importantly, help them apply it to their lives?

Guest: Michael Joens 27:09

Anticipating that question, we have included in each of our volumes a parent guide, because I realize some of these topics, a lot of parents watching this will not quite understand what justification is, or how do I teach this to my kid now? So we have provided Parent Guides in each of our volumes that will help the parents to go through the various lessons with their children. At the back of each one of those Parent Guides are; now, how can we apply what is justification? How does it impact my life? Or how does forgiveness, the lesson on forgiveness, how does that impact my life? How can I employ it in my my daily walk? So these things we have given are so parents, I believe, will truly will help them to do just what you're asking.

Host: David Wheaton 28:00

Let's expand out now beyond Theo regular cartoons in our culture today. How has animation and cartoons changed over the last 30 to 50 years?

Guest: Michael Joens 28:12

Cartoons have always, since the beginning of cartoons, reflected the culture in which they were created. The Warner Brother cartoons of the 30's and 40's, reflected the era in which they were created. I think that's also true of the subsequent generation. You know, for decades, cartoons are a reflection of the culture. Unfortunately, sadly, some of the cartoons being produced today. I won't name names, but they do reflect our culture, and I would not want my children to watch them, because they're not wholesome, number one, and they don't, of course, teach any kind of a Christian worldview.

Cartoons don't have to do that, by the way. I think that there are the old Warner Brother cartoons, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, those kinds of things. They're just funny and they're entertaining. They're fun to watch. They don't teach a Christian worldview either, but at the same time, I don't believe that they demean a Christian or moral worldview. That's I guess what I'm trying to say. Modern cartoons, at least some of them, are are not profitable to watch for children.

Now, kids are going to pick up non Christian stuff no matter what they do, what they see. It's all bombarding them, and that's why it's so important for parents to have a good understanding of what the Bible teaches about who God is, and who we are relative to Him, and how we are to train our children in the light of that knowledge. So it's important that kids coming home from school have parents that know how to field certain questions that they'll bring up about this, that, and the other from our culture.

Host: David Wheaton 29:59

Mike, walk us through how an episode of Theo is created. There's three different types of animation in any given episode, so tell us how these things are created. They're only 10 to 12 minutes long, but there's a lot in them.

Guest: Michael Joens 30:13

It happens a couple of ways. One way might be, I have a Bible story I want to teach. Say, for example, Jonah. I want to teach the story of Jonah, so what do I do? I'll come up with a story of Jonah, and I need to lead into that story. Theo has to lead into it. So what I usually do is come up with a story for the mice. The mice are really the springboard that leads Theo into the Bible time, as it were, our "Shoebox Bible theaters."

I've chosen three different styles of animation that I love. The first is the traditional, or Disney style of animation, which is how I present the mice, as well as Theo and any other characters that they might interact with. You'll see that very fluid, very traditional style of animation.

Then Theo does what I call, he'll take the topic and say, for example, we're talking about salvation. What does salvation mean? Well, here's what it doesn't mean. I tend to use what's called the UPA style of cartooning, which is from the studio United Productions of America. They were very popular back in the late 40's and 50's, early 60's. A very graphic style, very cartoony style of animation. I love it. They used it in all kinds of advertising and such, paper, as well as on television. So I will use, well, here's what it doesn't mean. I do three comedic "what salvation is not", and then Theo will come back and say, Well, let's talk about what salvation is.

He'll then introduce us to the to the Shoebox Bible Theater. In that segment, usually around five minutes long, they will teach that particular Bible story through what's called a puppet style, or computer type style of animation. Again, it's a very graphic style, but I think it it conveys the biblical truth in a way that kids are entertained by and will want to watch again and again.

Host: David Wheaton 32:23

I think listeners will really enjoy seeing it, and they'll notice those styles, but even more than that, they're going to notice that the message of these episodes is so clear and strong, and so helpful for teaching our children biblical doctrines. Mike, we so appreciate your coming on the Christian worldview today, and hope there are more Theo episodes planned in the future. Are there plans for that?

Guest: Michael Joens 32:50

that's in God's hands. I don't hope that doesn't sound facetious. They are in God's hands. I mean, we would love to do more. There's so many more I would like to write, because we've only just basically scratched the surface of biblical doctrine. As God would provide for us to do that, then we would do more. Of course, until He does, and we are writing books right now, and we of course, have other things that people may want to check out on our website.

Host: David Wheaton 33:16

Well, we want to see more of Luther and Belfry, Theo, Scratch and the rest of the characters. We appreciate your using the gift God's given you to do this, and we wish all of God's best and Grace to you and your family.

Guest: Michael Joens 33:31

Thank you very much, David, and likewise, to you and your family.

Host: David Wheaton 33:34

That was Michael Joens, everyone. The creator and director of Theo. It's actually officially called Theo Presents. A 15 -pisode cartoon series that we highly recommend for you and your family.

Now we have a little more audio with Mike Joens, and this interview was recorded just a couple days ago. Oftentimes some of the things said when we're recording isn't the interview, it's not officially going on, but is very interesting. I usually never play that conversation before or after of course, it's a private conversation. However, as we talked after the interview, he had some very interesting things to say about why he made the characters in Theo the way he did. Why he made Luther and Belfry the way they did. Who is Theo? Where did he get that personality type?

Guest: Michael Joens 38:37

Theo for what it's worth, between you, me, and the fence post, is I my alter ego. I wish I was Theo. He's the guy. He's the man I wish I was. He always has the right answer, the kind, loving heart and all of that. I try to be that man, but he's my alter ego, and I suppose a little nicer too.

Luther represents the man of the world. He's the every man, the man of the flesh.

Little Belfry, to me, is the target character. He is the one like the child watching the episode. He is the one that's going to have the questions. So really, I think the young ones would probably identify mostly with Belfry, and Scratch, of course, was his and everyone's arch nemesis to our faith. He is the devil, even the name Scratch, the old Scratch, is the English name for the devil, old Scratch.

What drove me was that people say, "Wait a minute, kids aren't going to understand that." Yes they will. They may not understand that first pass, but maybe, the 10th pass, they'll understand what we're talking about, same as the Warner Brothers cartoon. Cartoons done back in the 30s and the 40s, those were not written for children. Those were written for adults, but kids love them, and they'll watch them over and over and over again, because they love cartoons. Yes, that was the philosophy behind giving them theology rich. And as long as you have good production values, and they're going to want to watch that.

Host: David Wheaton 40:13

Yes, and Theo has that. Ok, that was the conversation after the interview with Mike Joens, and it was very interesting indeed. There was much more. He's a very interesting person, and it was no surprise to me, after talking to him, why this particular cartoon series is the way it is, and it's like I was saying, almost brought tears to my eyes, just watching the specific and accurate depiction of what the gospel is and thinking how this can impact children, how it's impacted already my child, and my child is not even old enough to understand what the real message of it is yet.

Then, realizing that the message of Scripture, God's love and when we're saved, it not only brings us eternal life, but abundant life here. I mean, like I said, if, if there were more churches that even had this depth of teaching, that would be just a big improvement in our world.

Now it may seem like a big transition to go from Theo presents to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Northern Kentucky, where we are currently on a road trip, but it's really not. The biblical soundness and the clear gospel that Michael Joens brings to Theo is the same that Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis bring to their entire ministry, including at the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. While both are for adults, for sure, they are especially impactful for children.

On next week's program, you'll hear the interviews we have been doing on site at the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter, including with founder and CEO Ken Ham. It's been a wonderful and faith building trip for my family and me. Could not recommend it more highly for you to visit as well.

In the remaining minutes today, I wanted to air a short portion of an interview we did with Brian Osborne. He's a former public school teacher turned international speaker for Answers in Genesis. He's also the author of *Quick Answers to Tough Questions* and *Quick Answers to Social Issues*. Both of these we carry in The Christian Worldview store.

Brian gave a very compelling presentation on the global flood of Genesis 6-9 the day we visited the Ark Encounter, and we had the opportunity to speak with him afterwards. One thing you said is, the evolutionary scientists look at the same information that young earth creation scientists do. They're all looking at the same information, but they have different starting assumptions. Tell us more about why that's so critical.

Guest: Brian Osborne 44:27

People miss this so much. They tend to think this whole battle is over a pile of evidence. Who can get the bigger pile? If I get a bigger pile then my side wins, but it's actually over the same evidence. Biblical scientists, as you already said, and creation scientists, have all the same stuff; the same rock layers, same fossils, same DNA, same radio isotopes, same distant starlight, and same bones, all observed in the present.

As I said in the presentation, they interpret those things differently in the present and make different guesses about where those things came from, rooted in their different starting assumptions about the unseen past, which are rooted in their different worldviews. The key really is this, if you do start with those wrong assumptions, you'll likely get the wrong conclusions. That's so important, because when you realize that, yes, somebody can be brilliant, they can be really, really smart, but still be really, really wrong, especially about history, when they're making guesses rooted in the wrong assumptions.

Something I mentioned in there as well, and it's so important, is that there is no neutral. Either God's Word is your authority or man's word is. As Christians, we stand on God's Word, have a biblical worldview, and give biblical answers, from that perspective. The secularists on the other hand, no wonder their answers are so different. They've rejected the Bible and they've rejected biblical history. They have a totally different interpretation based on a different worldview. So the clash really is that foundational level of whose word do you trust? God's Word or man's word.

Host: David Wheaton 45:46

Speaking of the flood and the ark, of course, that's the essential focal point here at the Ark Encounter. It's truly amazing just to see a life size replica of Noah's Ark and to go inside it. One thing that's really struck me is how complex and how sophisticated it would have to be to live on the ark with all these animals for a year, dealing with feeding them, the waste, oxygen and light, and

everything about it. It's no wonder it took Noah, what is it, 100 years of planning and designing and actual construction of the ark?

At the end of your presentation, you got into the door of the ark, and how there was just one door, and God closed the door. The ark was a symbol. It's a symbol of safety, being saved from this catastrophic flood that killed everyone on the earth, that God judged the earth with, and only eight were living at the end of it. You paralleled that with the gospel, where Jesus said, "I am the door", and anyone who enters through Me will be saved, and how that door on the Ark represents, that there's a door that we can enter to be saved from God's coming judgment.

Tell us some of the parallels like that to the gospel, and why these things in the Old Testament, like the flood, God's judgment, the door of the ark and salvation, and Christ being the only way. Why are these so important for Christians to understand?

Guest: Brian Osborne 47:13

First of all, you summarized it really well. So well done. That was nice. A couple things I point out. First of all, the flood shows us that God is holy. He judges sin. His nature does not change. He's the same God Old Testament and New Testament. So His holiness is clearly on display, and His righteous judgment is on display in the flood of Noah's day.

We deserve judgment because we are sinners. We are broken by sin, and we are born sinners by nature and consequently by choice. All of us deserve the right judgment of death. That's what we deserve because of our sin. Those are the wages we've earned. The flood of Noah's day shows that God is holy, He's just, that He judges sin, but in the midst of that judgment, He made a way of salvation. People could be saved if they believed what He said. He told them through Noah that if they would repent and actually get on board the ark, go through the door of the ark, people could have been saved. So there was an opportunity, but there was only one way to be saved. They could not create their own way of salvation. They had to bow the knee to God's way. He's God. We're not.

Of course, you think about parallels in just eternal salvation, we're all broken by sin. We deserve eternal separation from God in a real place called hell. That is what we deserve because of our sin, and the right judgment God gives us is just. We deserve that payment. We really do. But He's made a way of salvation, a way that we can provide for ourselves. And there's only one way, and that is through Christ, and He has paid the debt that we could not pay.

You know, I think a lot of people, especially in our culture today, think they're not that bad. I mean, we're not that bad, we're pretty nice people. We're not Hitler, so we're decent, right? I don't know why Hitler's the standard, but we think we're pretty decent, but we fail to recognize God requires

perfection. He's perfect. He's perfect in holiness. And we cannot do that. You get back to the Old Testament. You have all the sacrifices, the sacrificial system, those things pointing to the ultimate sacrifice to come. But the blood of bulls and goats could not cover our sin. We needed a better sacrifice, a perfect sacrifice. With all those things, pointed to Christ. And so the sacrifices point to Christ, God's judgment points to God's judgment to come in the future, our need for salvation. The Old Testament points to the Messiah to come. He provides that salvation that we cannot provide for ourselves.

And so we now have the post flood, there's another judgment coming. The next time it is by fire and it is for eternity, and there is one way to be saved, and that is through Jesus Christ. You said, the door, of course, John 14:6, Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one gets to the Father, but by Me." It's only through Christ.

I want to make it really clear, it's got to be Christ, because He's God who became flesh. He lived the perfect life we couldn't live. He was sinless and then He died on the cross, and He died in our place. He took my sin debt. He took the wrath of God on my behalf. I can't take those things. I couldn't pay that debt, but he did because He's the God man the perfect sacrifice. Then He rose from the grave, defeating death. I can never do that. He can. He's the God man.

When you repent, turn away from your sin, and put your faith in Christ, there's a double imputation. He took my sin, I get His righteousness. So now not only am I set free from sin, I don't have that weighed against me. Now I get my bank account, so to speak, it's credited with the righteousness of Christ. When God sees me, He sees Christ. You could not ask for any more! What a glorious thing, and the flood all points to that.

There's that one way, and God has done it. God's provided it, but you must submit, humble yourself before the Lord, submit, and follow after Him and what He has declared. And all those truths are being gloriously pointed to throughout the Old Testament and pointing to Christ.

Host: David Wheaton 50:42

That is the glorious gospel, the good news in the midst of judgment back in Noah's day and in the upcoming judgment in our day in the future, that we've sinned against God, but the good God has provided a way, one way, for us to be saved through the door of Jesus Christ. That's why we so much appreciate Answers in Genesis and what's being presented at the Creation Museum and here at the Ark Encounter and in your presentation today. We're so grateful that there are fellow believers out there defending the faith and also proclaiming the gospel that really changes hearts. Thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview today, and it's all of God's best and grace to you.

Guest: Brian Osborne 51:21

Thank you so much. It's been a privilege. It's been great to hang out for a little bit before talking later on.

Host: David Wheaton 51:26

Okay, we will have a whole program next week on our visit to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter with several interviews, including with founder and CEO, Ken Ham. Be sure to join us for that and follow The Christian Worldview on Facebook and X for updates and pictures from our trip.

Let's be reminded what Jesus said in John 10:7-10. "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

If you are not born again and have eternal life, we urge you to obey Jesus' command to repent and believe in the gospel. You can find out more by going to our website. The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end. Until next time "Think Biblically, Live Accordingly and Stand Firm.

To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript, or find out What Must I Do to be Saved? Go to TheChristianWorldview.org, or call our toll-free number mentioned below.

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